

Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*), another species of the far southwest, has been collected in Meade County State Park.

Also in 1963, on January 7, a Harris Hawk was found dead near Hunter, Lincoln County, in north-central Kansas, many miles from Meade County. According to Mr. J. R. Zuvanich (personal communication) the specimen was later turned over to Fort Hays Kansas State College at Hays, Kansas, by Mr. Gary Heskett.

These observations were made under joint research studies being conducted by the University of Oklahoma and Kansas State Teachers College and financed by the National Institutes of Health (Project AI 05232-01). — DAVID F. PARMELEE, *Biology Department, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas*, and H. A. STEPHENS, *University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Oklahoma City, November 26, 1963*.

An Early Specimen of the Indigo Bunting from California.—There have been several recent reports of Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) collected in California (Cardiff, Condor, 53, 1951:100; Bleitz, Condor, 60, 1958:408; Williams, Condor, 63, 1961:341-342) as well as earlier sight records of the species for the state (Linsdale, Bird-Lore, 41, suppl. October, 1939:12; Seibert, Condor, 44, 1942:68-72). A record which has been overlooked is a specimen collected by Walter P. Taylor on April 11, 1908, at Mecca, Riverside County, and placed in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley (MVZ no. 811). The specimen, a male, was originally misidentified as a Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). Taylor also collected a Lazuli Bunting in the same general area on April 22 but apparently did not realize the significance of the plumage differences. The specimen of the Indigo Bunting shows the characteristic winter plumage of the species and comparison with other specimens of *Passerina cyanea* in the collection of the University of Michigan taken at about the same season reveals no indication of hybridization with *Passerina amoena*.

This specimen antedates the first record of the species for Arizona (Swarth, Condor, 20, 1918:20-24), which at the time it was collected was considered to be the most western record of the species. A later specimen taken in Arizona in 1930 was reported by Huey (Condor, 33, 1931:129) as a new species for Arizona, but this distinction belongs to the Swarth specimen.

I wish to thank Ned K. Johnson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley and Harrison B. Tordoff of the Museum of Zoology in Ann Arbor for making the *Passerina* collections in their respective institutions available to me.— WILLIAM L. THOMPSON, *Department of Biology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, October 30, 1963*.

Ringed Parakeets Nesting in Los Angeles, California.—Ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) have seemingly nested since about 1956 in a deserted woodpecker nest cavity in a utility pole near the corner of Armadale Avenue and Charters Avenue in Los Angeles, California. The species, according to Peters (Check-list of Birds of the World, vol. 3, 1937:242-243), ranges naturally from Africa to China, five races being recognized. Subspecific identity of the birds here in question was not determined. Since the species is popular with aviculturists, I believe that the birds in the Los Angeles area are escapes. The breeding attempt in spring, 1963, was abortive and the eight eggs that were collected proved infertile. They are now in the collection of the Moore Laboratory of Zoology.

The parakeets were first reported to me by Mr. Benjamin Rose, an employee at Occidental College. Mr. Rose's sister had noticed the birds in the spring and summer of 1962 and was interested in their identity and status in the avifauna. I visited the locality, three blocks from Occidental College, in October of 1963, a season when the birds were not present. The pole containing the nest cavity is located about 150 feet up a steep incline of Charters Avenue east of Armadale Avenue and is about 50 feet tall. The deserted nest cavity, probably that of a Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*), is located near the top of the pole about 18 inches below the entrance, and it is about six inches in diameter.

Mrs. P. P. Becker of 4773 Baltimore Street informed me that she had been observing the parakeets at this location for eight years, that there had been in past years as many as six to eight birds in a flock, and that a pair of them regularly raised young birds in the utility pole. Without knowledge of the size of the clutch that I had removed from the cavity in 1963, she informed me that she had once noted eight young birds being fed by the parents on a wire cable attached to the

pole! She also stated that the number of birds in the flock had steadily decreased so that only two birds had been present in the past two to three years.

The birds were reported to me to have returned to the pole on February 11, 1963. I first observed them on February 13 at 8:30 a.m. and identified them as Ringed Parakeets, their red bills and long, limp tails being clearly visible.

After my first observations, the birds were observed weekly and were apparently present frequently each day until observations were terminated in mid-June. One bird, which I assumed to be the female, began to spend periods ranging from a few minutes to over two hours in the nest cavity each day, interspersing these periods with short ones away, presumably to feed. The other bird seldom appeared near the nest but was probably in the area and was occasionally seen either perched in a treetop from 100 feet to one-fourth mile from the nest or flying past. I assumed this bird was the male. Two-hour observation periods on 16 occasions, dispersed from February to early June, were carried out by Mark Dewey, a student in biology at Occidental College. These periods were usually from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., but observations were also made from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Additionally, Dennis M. Power, a graduate student, and I made shorter observations (a few minutes to an hour long) at other times of the day on ten days.

Throughout the periods of observation, the supposed female roosted in the nest cavity at night, with two possible exceptions. She retired typically between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m., extremes being 4:44 and 5:58 p.m. On the few occasions that no parrot was seen to go to roost, it is probable that the bird either escaped notice or was in the nest cavity throughout the time of observation.

The birds were only once observed feeding. The supposed female was seen foraging in a small almond tree about 200 feet from the nest pole. Since a variety of food trees, including fig, walnut, and pecan, exist in the area, food supplies pose no problems for these frugivorous birds. They also eat leaves, according to Mrs. Becker.

The birds usually called while in flight, especially when nearing the nest. The calls consisted of plaintive chattering *chee-chee* notes somewhat like those of a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).

Probably sometime in late April the eggs were laid. On May 5, eight eggs were in the cavity, which otherwise contained only a few feathers and wood chips. Investigation of the nest contents on four occasions was possible through the kind offices of Mr. Jack Webb of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, who sent a truck with hydraulic lift, by which a workman or I were able to reach the nest hole.

The parrots were occasionally observed actively defending the nest cavity area. A Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) that I watched hover at the cavity entrance and perch on the pole was once frightened away by the emerging parrot. On two other occasions, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) and a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) were likewise put to flight by the parrot fluttering from the nest at them. Mrs. Becker reported that one of the parrots once attacked her pet cat as it lay on the back door step of their residence. The step is near a large walnut tree where the parrots frequently sit and is about 300 feet from the nest pole. So persistent was the assault on the cat that it had to be allowed indoors to escape!

Although the eight eggs were apparently incubated by the supposed female, they did not hatch. On June 20, one was missing, one was broken, and the remaining six were cold and apparently deserted. This was at least 35 days after laying. The seven eggs were infertile. The incubating bird had been seen at the nest as late as June 3, but no birds were noted thereafter when the nest contents were investigated.

Observations of this nest in the coming year are planned, and I hope it will be possible to capture the birds for examination. Especially interesting would be ascertainment of sex. The clutch of eight eggs is approximately double the normal size. In addition, the fact that seven eggs were infertile indicates the strong possibility that both birds were female. I think it unquestionable that Mrs. Becker's observations of breeding activity are authentic, and her report of eight young together with my discovery of eight eggs is possibly not a coincidence. Perhaps, unfortunately for the survival of the colony, the dwindling of the original flock of six to eight birds has resulted in the remaining two being females.

I believe that the foregoing observations should not be assumed to be the first wild nesting records of this exotic species in California or the United States. Los Angeles contains such an artificial amalgam of introduced vegetation, isolated by mountains, desert, and ocean, that in reality it is little

more than a gigantic aviary wherein aviculture is heavily practiced and where individuals of any tropical or temperate bird species might escape to persist for a time and carry out its breeding cycle.
— JOHN WILLIAM HARDY, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, December 27, 1963.*

Little Blue Heron Collected in California.—The few sight records of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) in California, none of which was supported by a specimen, have left the status of this species in the state uncertain (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:559). All but one of the records concern birds in white plumage, which may represent misidentifications of the Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*). The one dark-plumaged bird, which Grinnell and Miller considered "much the most certain record," may have been a Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) in view of the excellent description of the bird's very active feeding behavior and "bushy appearance" of the head (Watson, *Gull*, 22, 1940:37).

On March 7 and 8, 1964, we observed an immature Little Blue Heron feeding with Snowy Egrets at Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, California. On March 15, 1964, the bird was again found in the area and was collected by Jeter, with the assistance of Arthur Wang. The specimen, which proved to be a female, is now no. 152153 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.

The nearest established wintering areas of the Little Blue Heron are southern Baja California and Sonora, México; the nearest breeding area of the species is southern Sonora (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957:44-45).—HORACE H. JETER, *San Francisco, California*, and ROBERT O. PAXTON, *Berkeley, California*, April 12, 1964.